

What we claim is:

1. A multicast file transmission method, comprising:

transmitting a data file composed of a plurality of blocks from a sending side to respective receiving destinations;

5 testing, at said respective destinations, whether or not any transmitted packet is found erroneous in the data file composed of a plurality of blocks after the end of said transmission of the data file;

transmitting to said sending side from any of said respective receiving destinations, where any transmitted packet is found erroneous by said testing in the data file composed of a plurality of blocks after the end of said transmission of the data file, a request-for-retransmission signal for requesting retransmission of the transmitted packet of data found erroneous in said data file received at said any of respective receiving destinations, said request-for-retransmission signal being defined to indicate the offset position of said erroneous data in said transmitted packet of data and the data length of said erroneous data; and

retransmitting the transmitted packet of data found erroneous from the sending side to said any of said respective receiving destination in a multi-destination retransmission phase starting in response to said request-for-retransmission signal.

2. A multicast file transmission method as claimed in claim1, in which said request-for-retransmission signal is defined to send a total of 8 bytes composed of 4 bytes representative of the offset position of said transmission packet of said erroneous data and 4 bytes representative of the length of said erroneous data.